CURRENT LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of installing software in a system, comprising:

     during an installation procedure, providing a user prompt to request entry of a key;

     determining whether an entered key is proper;

     in response to determining that the entered key is proper, installing the software in the system and storing the entered key;

     in response to determining that the entered key is not proper, installing the software in the system and enabling activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time;

     after enabling activation of the first code, executing the first code during a boot procedure of the system; and

     during execution of the first code, providing another prompt for entry of a second key.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

     determining, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and

     not executing the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the second key in a registry in response to the second key being proper.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

     during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a third key.

1　7.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 6, further comprising:

2　　　determining whether the third key is proper; and

3　　　stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the third key

4　is not proper.

1　8.　(Previously Presented)　The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2　　　during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a third key;

3　　　determining whether the third key is proper; and

4　　　stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the third key

5　is not proper.

1　9.　(Previously Presented)　A system comprising:

2　　　a processor; and

3　　　a storage containing installation code for operating software executable by the processor,

4　the installation code when executed to cause the processor to:

5　　　　　provide a prompt to request entry of a first key;

6　　　　　determine whether the first key is proper;

7　　　　　in response to determining that the first key is proper, install the operating

8　software and store the first key in the storage;

9　　　　　in response to determining that the first key is not proper, install the operating

10　software and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of a key at a later time;

11　　　　　after enabling activation of the first code, execute the first code during a boot

12　procedure of the system,

13　　　　　wherein execution of the first code causes the processor to:

14　　　　　　　provide another prompt for entry of a second key; and

15　　　　　　　determine whether the second key is proper.

1　10. – 11.　(Cancelled)

3

1   12.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein execution of the first code causes

2   the processor to further:

3   in response to determining that the second key is proper, enable execution of the

4   operating software and store the second key in the storage; and

5   in response to determining that the second key is not proper, not execute the operating

6   software.

1   13. – 14. (Cancelled)

1   15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the storage contains a registry to

2   store the first key in response to determining that the first key is proper.

1   16.   (Previously Presented) An article comprising at least one storage medium containing

2   instructions that when executed cause a system to:

3   during an installation procedure, provide a user prompt to request entry of a key;

4   determine whether an entered key is proper;

5   in response to determining that the entered key is proper, install the software in the

6   system and store the entered key;

7   in response to determining that the entered key is not proper, install the software in the

8   system and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time;

9   after enabling activation of the first code, execute the first code during a boot procedure

10   of the system; and

11   during execution of the first code, provide another prompt for entry of a second key.

1   17.   (Cancelled)

1   18.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions when executed

2   cause the system to further:

3   determine, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and

4   not execute the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.

4

1   19.   (Cancelled)

1   20.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed
2   cause the system to further:
3   during execution of the installed software, provide a prompt of another key in response to
4   the entered key and the second key not being proper.